



**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF EXAMINERS OF
PSYCHOLOGISTS**
4334 South Sherwood Forest Boulevard, #C-150
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

Voice: (225) 295-8410
Fax: (225) 295-8412
Email: admin.lsbep@la.gov
Website: lsbep.org

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October 14, 2020

LOUISIANA ETHICS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Re: Request for Opinion Regarding Board Appointment

Dear To Whom It May Concern:

I am the Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) which enabling statutes are found in the Louisiana Revised Statutes, Chapter 28. Psychologists §§2351-2367. The LSBEP is currently engaged in its annual Call for Nominations which precede an Election to fill an upcoming vacancy on the LSBEP expected on June 30, 2021. Recently, Dr. Laruen Rasmussen volunteered and was appointed to the LSBEP as a *Pro Tem Member* specifically for the purpose of serving on a Hearing Panel on September 24, 2020. She is interested in serving the LSBEP as a regular full-term Board Member. Provided Dr. Rasmussen meets the qualifications for appointment to the LSBEP, would her previous temporary appointment prohibit her from being eligible for permanent appointment to the upcoming seat on July 1, 2021?

The following statute governs appointments to the LSBEP:

§2353. State board of examiners; organization; duties; meetings; fees

A.(1) There is hereby created within the Louisiana Department of Health a Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists which shall be subject to the provisions of R.S. 36:803. The board shall consist of six members to be comprised of five psychologists and one consumer.

*(2) The governor shall appoint members for terms of five years. Each appointment by the governor shall be subject to Senate confirmation. A **board member shall not be eligible to succeed himself**. All psychologist appointments shall be from a list provided by the Louisiana Psychological Association. The list shall report the results of an election in which persons qualified for board membership may nominate themselves and in which licensed members of the Louisiana Psychological Association and other persons licensed under this Chapter are entitled to one vote for each vacancy on the board. The consumer member may apply directly to the office of the governor. The governor shall ensure that his appointments demonstrate race, gender, ethnic, and geographical diversity.*

(3)(a) Each psychologist board member shall be a citizen of the United States, resident of the state of Louisiana, shall have rendered service, teaching, training, or research in psychology for at least five years, shall have held a doctoral degree in psychology from a school or college as defined in this Chapter for a period of five years, and shall be licensed under this Chapter for a minimum of five years.

(b)(i) The consumer member shall be selected from the state at large and shall possess all of the following qualifications:

(aa) Is a citizen of the United States and has been a resident of Louisiana for at least one year immediately prior to appointment.

(bb) Has attained the age of majority.

(cc) Has never been licensed by any of the licensing boards identified in R.S. 36:259(A), nor shall he have a spouse who has ever been licensed by a board identified in R.S. 36:259(A).

(dd) Has never been convicted of a felony.

(ee) Does not have and has never had a material financial interest in the healthcare profession.

(ii) The consumer member shall be a full voting member of the board with all rights and privileges conferred on board members, except that the consumer member shall not participate in the grading of individual examinations.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Subsection, no person shall be eligible to serve as a board member if he is employed by the board, has a contract with the board for services, or within the preceding twelve months of his nomination was employed by the board or had a contract with the board for services.

(5) Board members shall serve without compensation but shall receive seventy-five dollars per diem allowance plus the mileage rate provided state employees to cover expenses incurred while engaged in the discharge of their duties.

(6) Membership on the board of a public employee or official shall not constitute dual office holding within the meaning of R.S. 42:61 et seq.

(7) Each appointment by the governor shall be submitted to the Senate for confirmation.

B. The board shall, annually in the month of July, hold a meeting and elect from its membership a chairman and vice chairman. Special sessions may be called by the chairman or the governor. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting or hearing.

Dr. Rasmussen will not be succeeding herself, the Vice for this seat is Dr. Amy Henke. Also, Dr. Rasmussen is not, nor has she ever been, an employee of the board. Dr. Rasmussen does not, nor has she ever, held a contract for services with the Board.

Your opinion regarding any other prohibition that may exist in the Code of Governmental Ethics or elsewhere is requested prior to LSBEP's election, scheduled to open on December 1, 2020 is appreciated. Particularly regarding, R.S. 42:1121.A(2) *"No former member of a board or commission shall, for a period of two years following the termination of his public service on such board or commission, contract with, be employed in any capacity by, or be appointed to any position by that board or commission."* [emphasis added]. It is not clear if this provision is meant to exclude the LSBEP from "appointing" a former board member to a committee or other

board duty, or if it is intended to prohibit the Governor from appointing a former member (or *Pro Tem* member) to a board seat. Board members received \$75/day per diem plus mileage allowed under PPM49. Dr. Rasmussen received per diem for her service on September 24, 2020 and would be eligible for per diem should she be appointed for a full term.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,



Jaime T. Monic
Executive Director

CC: Lauren W. Rasmussen, Psy.D.

NOTICE: In compliance with Act 655 of the 2018 Regular Session, the LSBEP hereby gives notice to its licensees and applicants of their opportunity to file a complaint about board actions and board procedures. You may submit such complaints to one or more of the following organizations:

- Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists: **Submit in writing to:** LSBEP, 4334 S. Sherwood Forest, Blvd., #C-150, Baton Rouge, LA 70816; admin.lsbep@la.gov; (225)295-8410
- Committee on House & Governmental Affairs, La. House of Representatives: **Submit to:** H&GA@legis.la.gov or Committee on House & Governmental Affairs, La. House of Representatives, PO Box 44486, Baton Rouge, LA 70804; (225) 342-2403
- Committee on Senate & Governmental Affairs; La Senate: **Submit to:** s&g@legis.la.gov or Committee on Senate & Governmental Affairs; La Senate PO Box 94183, Baton Rouge, LA 70804; (225)342-9845

LA R.S. 42:14.D. Public comments – In accordance with LA R.S. 42:14.D., the LSBEP shall allow public comments at any point during a meeting of the LSBEP prior to action on an agenda item upon which a vote is to be taken. Individuals who wish to comment on a matter must sign in and state their intent to comment on a matter.

La. R.S. 44:33.1 - In compliance with La. R.S. 44:33.1, the LSBEP hereby gives notice that information submitted to the LSBEP may become public record pursuant to the provisions of Louisiana Public Records Law, La. R.S. 44:1, *et seq.*



**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF EXAMINERS OF
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8706 Jefferson Hwy., Suite B
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

Voice: (225) 925-6511
Fax: (225) 925-6521
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Website: Lsbep.org

RECEIVED

OCT 14 2020

LA STATE BOARD OF
EXAMINATION OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

Self-Nomination to Serve on the
Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

Election to Fill Vacancy Occurring July 1, 2021

(TERM: July 1, 2021- June 30, 2026)

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS:

Name: Lauren Woodruff Rasmussen

City: Baton Rouge State: LA Parish: EBR

LA License No.: 1220 Original LA Licensure Date: 01/17/2013

Specialty Designation: ☐ General ☐ Clinical ☐ Counseling ☐ School
☐ Developmental ☐ Experimental ☒ Clinical Neuropsychology ☐ I/O

Principal position: Partner at Jefferson Neurobehavioral Group

Other current positions (include small contracts):

1. Consulting neuropsychologist at Sage Rehabilitation
2. Consulting neuropsychologist at Neuro RehabCare
3. Consulting neuropsychologist at ReMed

Highest professional degree earned:

☐ Ph.D. ☒ Psy.D. ☐ Ed.D. ☐ Other: _____

Educational Institution: Georgia School of Professional Psychology

Date of Graduation: 2011 Major: Clinical Psychology/Neuropsychology

Other jurisdictions in which you are licensed to practice psychology:

STATE	LICENSE NO.	DATE OF ORIG. LIC.	EXPIRATION DATE

Have you ever been disciplined by any state licensing board(s) or sanctioned by a professional ethics committee? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide detail information:

Please list your memberships in professional organizations:

1.

2. National Academy of Neuropsychology

3. Louisiana Psychological Association

4. American Psychological Association

Have you previously served on the LSBEP? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If so, please list the dates:

Have you ever contracted with LSBEP in any professional role? ☐ Yes ☒ No

I served as a ProTem Hearing Member. This is an appointed, not contracted position.

Please provide a statement of issues facing the LSBEP, how you see your role as a regulator in enforcing the laws, standards and ethics code, and your goals for your tenure on the Board.

It is always a daunting task to replace a outgoing board member, who I am sure is leaving with a breadth of knowledge and experience. What I believe LSBEP is looking for in a candidate for this position is someone who is socially responsible, dedicated, honest, ethical, and hardworking. I promise to bring those qualities to the board.

As a recent Pro Tem board member, I had a glimpse into the responsibilities of the board members. I understand and appreciate that this position requires upholding ethical and legal standards of psychologists. It is of utmost importance that a board member serve to protect the sanctity of the field of psychology and those who utilize our services from harm.

As a board member, I think it is also important to be the voice of your profession, which means integrating feedback and viewpoints from members of the psychological community and working with your professional organizations.

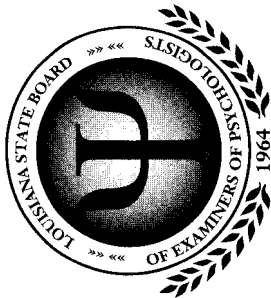
Over the course of my tenure with the board, I would like to continue modifying our rules and standards to ensure that they are commensurate with national standards. I would also like to help resolve complaints of paraprofessionals working outside of their areas of competence by coordinating with other organizations and oversight committees to establish reasonable boundaries.

I affirm that I meet the statutory requirements for service on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, have no ethical conflicts, and am willing to serve if appointed.

Date: 10/14/2020

Lauren W. Rasmussen

Signature



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